



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 12, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: July 11, 2004
CWP WA-CW2804

Winter Wheat Harvest on the Horizon Raspberry Harvest Approached Peak

Field Crops

Winter wheat harvest started in Walla Walla, Franklin, Adams, and Grant Counties. However, most counties reported making final preparation for harvest while waiting for winter wheat to finish turning color. In Spokane County, bluegrass seed swathing neared completion and a few combines started harvesting at the end of the week. Christmas tree growers were shearing Grand fir and Norway spruce and tying tops on Noble and Shasta fir.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 15 % very poor, 14% poor, 27% fair, and 44% good. In Pacific County, oyster growers continued Spartina and burrowing control operations during low tide series. Green chopping continued in Whatcom County.

Fruits and Vegetables

U-pick pumpkin growers in Thurston County were kept busy weeding and watering plants which were showing their first blooms. Sweet corn planting in Grant County was nearly complete. Cherries were ready to be picked in areas around Spokane County, especially Green Bluff. Some early peaches were harvested in Benton County. Raspberry, blueberry, apricots, and peas continued to be harvested around the state.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	6	22	72	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	38	50	0
Subsoil	5	26	69	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	8	46	46	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	99	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	4	96	0
Hay & Roughage	2	3	94	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	99	99	100	98
Winter Wheat Harvested	3	0	2	2
Barley Headed	99	99	99	98
Potatoes Harvested	8	5	6	6
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	78	66	61	71
Dry Peas Harvested	3	0	1	1
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	98	98	99	100
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	67	37	72	71
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	1	0	0	1

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	25	54	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	82	14
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	3	32	55	8
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	6	81	13
Barley Dryland	2	2	32	52	12
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	80	20
Potatoes	0	0	7	87	6
Corn	0	0	2	97	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	7	92	1

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Multiple shades of green continued to fade into a tapestry of brown, beige and yellow colors as drought conditions prevailed across the rural landscape. Rain showers early in the week did almost nothing to alleviate the shortage of soil moisture. Irrigation sprinklers continued to dominate sweet corn fields as growers maintained vigilance in providing adequate soil moisture for plant development. Raspberry harvest was at its peak with the last of the strawberries for this season now in the freezer. Christmas tree growers began shearing Grand fir. Hothouse tomato growers officially opened for retail sales. Home gardeners feasted on sweet cherries, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, blueberries and a wide variety of fresh vegetables.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Scattered showers only put a slight damper on the down swing of the hay harvest. Growers without irrigation were beginning to become anxious over the lack of precipitation. Crops generally looked good in spite of the shortage of summer rainfall.

Kitsap: Lack of rain continued to cause producers to irrigate specialty crops at a higher rate than normal. Crops were flourishing with everything weeks ahead of normal. Local raspberries and blueberries were available at area farmers markets. The Poulsbo Farmer's Market had its grand opening on July 10 with thousands of customers purchasing locally grown produce, honey, cheese, beer and wine.

Pacific: Continued dry conditions provided both opportunities and challenges for producers. Hay operations were completed, with some growers initiating irrigation for production of a second crop. Raspberry growers continued harvest activities with good yields, and limited fungus problems. Oyster growers continued Spartina and burrowing control operations during the low tide series.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good for field crops, fruits, vegetables and pasture in the South Puget Sound. No unusual situations were reported. No report of crop damage due to weather events.

San Juan: Cooler weather with some scattered showers slowed progress on the first cutting of hay.

San Juan/Skagit: The weather was normal for this time of year. Mostly sunny with a few intermittent showers. No crop losses were reported.

Snohomish/King: Temperatures for the week ranged from normal to slightly below normal. Much needed rain was welcomed for a couple of days. Raspberries, blueberries and vegetables were plentiful at the farmer's markets and roadside stands.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): Mixed sun and clouds through the week with some scattered showers later in the week. Crop and pasture growth was good. Raspberry harvest continued. Some blueberries were almost ready for picking.

Thurston: Cooler temperatures and cloudy skies provided ideal working conditions for ag producers who raced to meet the demands of the summer growing season. Blueberry harvest was in full swing with good yields and quality reported. Growers continued to predict a shorter than normal harvest season. Livestock producers continued harvesting hay on fields, which were harvested for green chop early in the spring. U-Pick pumpkin growers were kept busy weeding and watering rapidly growing plants which were sporting their first blooms. Christmas tree growers were shearing Norway spruce and Grand fir and tying tops on Noble and Shasta fir. Turfgrass growers welcomed the cooler temperatures which reduced intense irrigation schedules and continued to cultivate "powder dry" soils in preparation for seeding. Home gardeners continued to enjoy early season vegetables including new potatoes, onions, lettuce, radishes and peas.

Whatcom: Raspberry harvest continued. Potatoes were blooming. We received a few rain showers and the temperatures were cooler this week. Green chopping continued and blueberry harvest also started.

Central

Benton: Apricots and early peaches were harvested. Temperatures were cooler with little precipitation.

Benton (2nd Report): Harvest started in the southwest part of the county, with some yields above average.

Chelan/Douglas: Soft fruit crops were being harvested. Temperatures have been cooler. Fires in Chelan County had no affect on any cropland. Winter wheat turned, and the majority of the crop looked good.

Franklin: Good week for the production and harvesting of crops with normal temperatures. Pea harvest was ongoing and being completed in much of the southern part of the county. Wheat was nearly mature throughout the county for both irrigated and dryland. Wheat harvest began in dryland areas. Harvest should be in full swing throughout most of the dryland area this coming week. In the southern part of the

county the irrigated crop harvest should begin. Beans were coming up nicely as well as field and sweet corn. Second cutting hay was nearly completed throughout the county.

Grant: Apricot and Cherry harvest was underway. Sweet corn planting was nearly completed. Dryland wheat harvest started.

Kittitas: Second cutting alfalfa was in progress. Range and pasture conditions remained in good shape. Irrigation water supplies should be adequate for the remainder of the growing season.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from seven degrees above normal to eight degrees below normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Warm dry conditions last week. Warm, not hot conditions slowed winter wheat ripening, but harvest started on the far western and southern end of the county.

Asotin/Garfield: Conditions were dry during the week. Crops in lower elevations were near maturity and harvest was ready to start. Upper elevations could still benefit from additional rains.

Lincoln: Warm dry conditions last week. Winter wheat harvest will begin shortly in the southwest corner of the county.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: Cooler weather helped crops to fill without pushing them. This week sounds like a different story. The majority of the hay was baled and was being picked up. Bluegrass seed swathing was almost completed with a few combines starting harvest on Friday and Saturday. Cherries were ready for picking up at Green Bluff and they had a very good crop this year. The grains started to turn colors as

maturity got closer. Some reports of second cutting hay started this week. Pasture conditions for the most part were not too bad for right now.

Stevens: Mid-week rains delayed haying again this week. Several fields around the county started looking over-mature and began going down. Pastures continued to hold up well and grain crops began to turn color.

Walla Walla: Harvest was getting underway in the northern portion of the county. Many plan to start the week of July 11.

Whitman: Weather cooled slightly to normal summertime temperatures. Producers finalized preparation for harvest. Early areas of the county will start late this week or early next week. Summer fallow work, mowing CRP, and putting up hay were all activities on the Palouse during the week. Crops were looking very good as harvest quickly approached.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

July 12, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	53	70	61	-1	78	-4	10	-8	0.02	-0.30	2	27.78	-6.23	82	139
Everett	51	74	60	-3	72	-13	7	-14	0.29	0.00	3	27.72	-6.66	81	150
Hoquiam	50	69	60	0	70	0	4	-3	0.05	-0.25	2	61.39	-4.30	93	176
Kelso	55	82	68	5	126	35	56	28	0.01	-0.22	1	31.09	-13.42	70	122
Olympia	44	80	60	-3	74	-11	8	-13	0.03	-0.18	1	44.00	-4.87	90	153
Sea-Tac	52	78	63	-2	92	-11	22	-13	0.16	-0.04	5	32.98	-2.68	92	135
Shelton	47	79	62	-3	84	-15	16	-18	0.00	-0.23	0	60.22	-2.90	95	150
Tacoma	50	79	62	-3	88	-10	19	-11	0.02	-0.19	2	30.63	-7.86	80	133
Vancouver	51	81	65	2	108	10	38	7	0.00	-0.21	0	29.76	-9.88	75	144
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	51	91	68	0	124	2	54	0	0.00	-0.07	0	7.36	-1.05	88	85
Omak	43	89	67	1	120	3	50	0	0.00	-0.14	0	10.61	-2.97	78	70
Stampede Pass	44	70	54	1	34	-1	1	-2	0.46	0.10	3	70.16	-8.11	90	163
Wenatchee	53	87	69	-4	134	-24	64	-24	0.00	-0.07	0	8.87	1.11	114	77
Yakima AP	44	89	66	-4	113	-22	43	-22	0.00	-0.06	0	6.29	-1.22	84	68
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	82	64	-2	100	-11	33	-10	0.08	-0.13	1	8.82	-10.79	45	74
Deer Park	36	82	61	-8	77	-50	15	-44	0.26	0.05	1	17.63	0.35	102	124
Spokane AP	43	81	64	-5	98	-27	30	-27	0.00	-0.14	0	13.18	-2.21	86	107
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	50	88	69	-6	136	-34	66	-34	0.00	-0.07	0	4.85	-1.91	72	64
Moses Lake	48	90	69	-6	133	-37	63	-37	0.00	-0.07	0	5.05	-1.71	75	62
Quincy	51	86	68	-3	128	-14	58	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	4.93	-2.38	67	57
Ritzville	44	87	64	-4	102	-26	33	-27	0.00	-0.11	0	10.23	-0.46	96	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	49	90	70	-8	140	-47	70	-47	0.00	-0.02	0	6.38	0.30	105	65
Pasco	46	93	69	-6	134	-34	64	-35	0.00	-0.02	0	7.70	0.68	110	78
Pullman	39	80	62	-3	87	-14	22	-13	0.00	-0.19	0	15.15	-4.65	77	103
Whitman Miss.	45	91	67	-4	119	-24	49	-24	0.00	-0.11	0	16.25	3.37	126	113
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	43	81	63	-6	92	-36	28	-32	0.01	-0.21	1	13.50	-10.64	56	104
Lewiston ID	53	90	72	-3	151	-13	81	-13	0.03	-0.11	1	11.31	0.04	100	95

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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